



# THE SOURCE



NEWSLETTER OF THE NHDES DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION PROGRAM  
ON THE WEB AT [WWW.DES.STATE.NH.US/DWSPP](http://WWW.DES.STATE.NH.US/DWSPP)

FALL 2001

## Managing Stormwater as a Resource

### Water Demand Up, Water Availability Down

New Hampshire is the fastest-growing state in the Northeast, having grown by 316,000 people from 1980 to 2000, and expecting to add another 299,000 by 2020. One of the troublesome trends with increased development is a reduction in available water resources, even as the demand for those resources increases. Better stormwater management can help address this problem, as well as support overall protection of water resources. To alert municipalities and water suppliers to the issue and to provide essential strategies for stormwater management, DES has recently published a new guide, *Managing Stormwater as a Valuable Resource*.

To receive a copy of  
*Managing  
Stormwater as a  
Valuable Resource*  
contact Paul Susca at  
271-7061 or  
[psusca@des.state.nh.us](mailto:psusca@des.state.nh.us).

The new guide addresses the concern that, while conventional stormwater management systems are designed to reduce pollutants in stormwater and to detain runoff in order to reduce peak discharges, such systems often do not adequately enable stormwater to recharge groundwater. As a result, post-development recharge can be less than pre-development recharge. Consequently, some water suppliers in urbanized areas have already reported reduced baseflow in streams during dry periods, and reduced aquifer storage.

The new guide encourages site design to maximize natural infiltration of stormwater, and the

*Stormwater continued pg. 4*

## Water Protection Grant Proposals Due November 16



Once again, DES will award over \$350,000 for the 2001/2002 Local Water Protection Grants. These funds can be used to develop and implement programs to protect sources of public drinking water and identify and address nonpoint source pollution to protect watersheds.

Drinking Water Protection grants are awarded for the protection of active sources of public water supplies. Funds can be used to cover all aspects of source water protection: delineation, assessment and implementation. Past projects include wellhead protection area delineations, potential contamination source inventories, local ordinance development, the formation of watershed protection alliances, and BMP construction. These grants have a limit of \$15,000 and while match-

ing funds are not required they do strengthen a proposal.

Nonpoint Source Protection grants cover a much broader range of projects, including organization building for watershed protection, water resource protection planning, and implementation of water resource management plans such as best management practices, education and outreach programs, and other pollution prevention activities. These grants have no monetary limit but do require a 40 percent match.

Applications are available on the web at [www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp/grants.htm](http://www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp/grants.htm) or by contacting Johnna McKenna at 603-271-7017 or at [jmckenna@des.state.nh.us](mailto:jmckenna@des.state.nh.us).



## Spotlight on... Lebanon

The City of Lebanon is entirely dependent upon surface water from the Mascoma River watershed for its drinking water supply. With the advent of the Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule and Stage I Disinfection By-Product Rule, the City of Lebanon felt it was in their best interest to determine the susceptibility of their water source to quality degradation and contamination for reasons of public health and water treatment costs.

Knowing that preserving water quality requires an understanding of the watershed as the basis for sound decision making, Lebanon applied for a source water protection grant from DES to study the Mascoma River watershed. With the grant, the City of Lebanon hired a consultant to prepare a geographic information system (GIS) watershed/subwatershed map for use as a planning tool. Once identified, the subwatershed that directly feeds the drinking water treatment plant in Lebanon was further mapped for parameters such as land cover, slope, drainage, and soil erod-

ability. These GIS coverages allowed the consultant to classify different areas in the subwatershed into various categories based on the degree of threat they posed to the Mascoma.

This project was one piece (Phase II) in the bigger process of developing a comprehensive protection plan for Lebanon's drinking water source. Phases III and IV of the project are still being refined while funding and manpower for these aspects of the project are still under consideration. However, this initial project has given the City a good base of knowledge about their source protection area that will likely determine where future protection efforts are focused.

For more information about Lebanon's mapping project, contact Kevin Kingston, City of Lebanon, at 448-2514. Information about the grant program that funded this project can be found on the first page of this newsletter. The grant deadline is fast approaching, so request your application today!

## Update on the Source Assessment Program

The staff of DES's Drinking Water Source Assessment Program (DWSAP), aided by interns Nathaniel Fee and Louisa Leuchs, made great strides this past summer in completing field work for the program. As of mid-August, the interns had completed field inventories for 500 systems, including all 309 of the remaining transient systems. Since the Program began in 1999, assessments for over two-thirds of the state's 2,986 active public water supply sources have been completed, and posted on DES's web site at [www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp/reports.htm](http://www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp/reports.htm), as of mid-August. Work this fall will focus on completing assessments for the remaining sources for which field work was done this summer, as well as mailing assessment reports to water suppliers and town officials.

Following the completion of dye tracer studies on the larger rivers, field inventories were completed for all surface sources this summer, clearing the way for assessments to be done this fall. Assessments for approximately 20 lake and reservoir sources will have to wait for the completion of a lake modeling project, which is expected

to be finished in mid-2002. The federal deadline for the completion and mailing of all assessments is May 2003. For more information about the DWSAP, contact Paul Susca at 271-7061 or Johnna McKenna at 271-7017.

*The Source*, the quarterly newsletter of DES's Drinking Water Source Protection Program, is published by:



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*Printed on Recycled Paper*

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# Closer To Home

*Information for well owners and  
public water system customers*

## Understanding Consumer Confidence Reports

Since 1999, customers of community public water systems have been receiving annual reports detailing the quality of their drinking water. These reports, known as Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs), are issued by the water system in an effort to help their customers know more about their drinking water quality.

The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act contained several provisions that strengthened the consumer's right-to-know about what was in their drinking water. These water quality reports are one such requirement.

According to the amendments, all community water systems (which are basically water systems that serve people in the places that they live) are required to publish reports for their customers that indicate where their water comes from, what contaminants have been found in it, the likely source of the detected contaminants, and whether the water poses any health concerns. Customers must receive these reports by July 1st of each year.

While the CCRs are meant to be easy to read and customer friendly, they can still be very confusing to someone who is not involved in the drinking water in-

dustry because of the acronyms and contaminants to which they may refer.

A new website found at [www.waterqualityreports.org](http://www.waterqualityreports.org) can help drinking water customers better understand what their Consumer Confidence Report tells them about their drinking water.

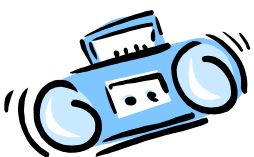
A new website, sponsored by the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation (NEETF), is available to help people understand their CCRs. It can be found on the web at [www.waterqualityreports.org](http://www.waterqualityreports.org) or in printed form by calling 202-833-2933.

The site contains useful explanations for consumers including:

1. Key terms likely to be encountered when reading the reports.
2. Answers to frequently asked questions.
3. Background on where drinking water can come from and how it can become contaminated.
4. Ways that drinking water is treated and how often it is tested.
5. Ideas for what the average citizen can do to protect drinking water.

We encourage water suppliers to incorporate information from this website into their next CCR and to make their customers aware of its availability.

## Have You Heard? DES's New Public Service Announcement Encourages Well Owners to Test Their Drinking Water

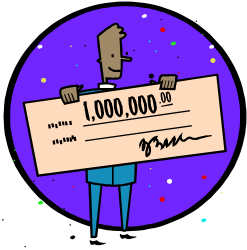


DES's Water Supply Engineering Bureau recently took to the radio airwaves in an effort to encourage more homeowners with private wells to have their drinking water tested. If you listen to the radio as you drive down the highway or prepare dinner, keep your ears open for our new PSA. Several stations, including WGIR, WOKQ, WNNH, and WLTN, have agreed to air the announcement starting in late August.

In addition to the PSA, a flyer is being published that will be available at town halls and libraries throughout the state. The flyer includes more detailed information about recommended well water tests, including their recommended frequency and approximate cost. To view more information about private well testing, visit [www.des.state.nh.us/well\\_testing.htm](http://www.des.state.nh.us/well_testing.htm).

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## Four Communities Receive \$1.3 Million in Land Grant Awards



The first round of grants awarded through the Water Supply Land Conservation Grant Program, totaling \$1.3 million, resulted in the protection of 1,888 acres of land in drinking water source protection areas. Grant recipients included the communities of Barrington, Nashua, Portsmouth, and Raymond. All of the protected lands will provide passive recreation opportunities as well as water supply protection.

The projects range in size from a 45-acre parcel adjacent to the existing well site in Raymond, to a 1,355-acre project that encompasses the headwaters of the Oyster and Bellamy Rivers (sources of drinking water for Portsmouth and Durham/UNH). Each project required a 75 percent match of the total project cost. Portsmouth used funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and National Fish & Wildlife Service for the match to protect 193 acres known as Great Bog, while Nashua received a Land and Community Heritage Investment Pro-

gram grant to assist them in the purchase of 295 acres that protects one of the ponds in the series of ponds that supplies water for the Nashua area.

The Water Supply Land Conservation Grant Program was signed into law in June of 2000. It provides grant funds in the amount of 25 percent of the total project price to assist communities in purchasing land or conservation easements to protect critical water supply lands. Grants are awarded to municipalities or non-profit water suppliers. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests works in conjunction with DES to implement this grant program.

DES has \$1.5 million for grant allocation for the fall 2001 grant period. Project eligibility applications are due on October 1, 2001. Any funds remaining from the fall round will be available during a second spring grant round, for which eligibility applications are due February 1, 2002. For more information, contact Sherry Godlewski at 271-0688 or [sgodlewski@des.state.nh.us](mailto:sgodlewski@des.state.nh.us)

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### *Stormwater continued from pg. 1*

use of so-called best management practices (BMPs) designed to maximize infiltration. While DES has long encouraged the use of *natural* infiltration BMPs, such as grassed swales and vegetated buffers, the new guide also promotes the use of *artificial* infiltration BMPs, such as infiltration basins and infiltration trenches.

This change in DES policy was prompted by several factors: dramatic expansion of urbanized areas, increasing concerns about the future avail-

ability of groundwater and surface water resources, and better understanding of the siting, design, and operational requirements of artificial infiltration BMPs.

The new guide was prepared under the guidance of an advisory committee formed under DES's Groundwater and Drinking Water Strategy. To receive a copy, contact DES at 271-7061 or see the report on our website at [www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp/stormwater.pdf](http://www.des.state.nh.us/dwspp/stormwater.pdf).

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